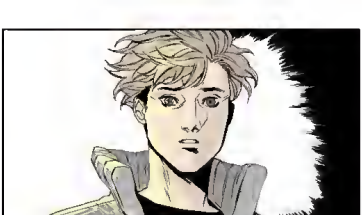
WHY DO YOU THINK WE'VE RETAINED OUR HUMANOID FORMS, DESPITE THE TIME THAT'S PASSED?

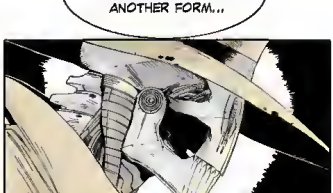
THIS IS A RELIGION. OBSESSION. BLIND FAITH.

WE'VE STILL BEEN UNABLE TO DISCARD IT... HATING THEM WHILE ENVYING THEM, SCORNING THEM WHILE LOVING THEM.



THAT'S WHY EVERYONE WANTS TO BE LIKE THEM, NO MATTER WHAT.

THAT'S WHY WE DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANOTHER FORM...



AND THAT'S WHY WE STILL COPY YOU HUMANS.

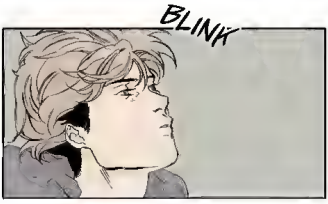
WHILE WE WERE HUMANS...

THAT BECAME MACHINES BY THEIR HANDS,

WE WANT TO BECOME HUMANS AGAIN.

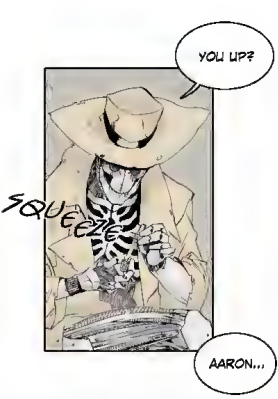
WE WANT TO RETURN TO OUR HUMAN BODIES AGAIN.

BLINK

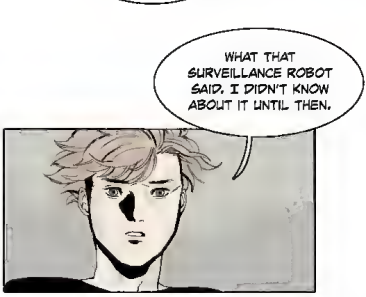


MM...

CLINK


YOU UP?
SQUEEZE
AARON...

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ANYTHING?
TWIST
TWIST
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

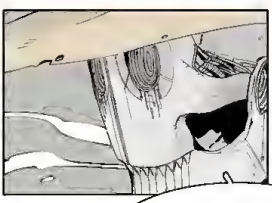

WHAT THAT SURVEILLANCE ROBOT SAID. I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT UNTIL THEN.

WHY DIDN'T GRAMPS OR YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS...RELIGION?

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF YOU KNEW?

NOTHING WOULD HAVE CHANGED EVEN IF I TOLD YOU.

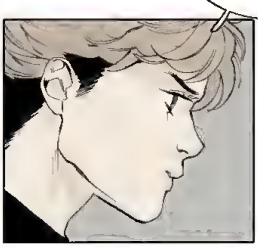
YOU COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT ANYWAY.

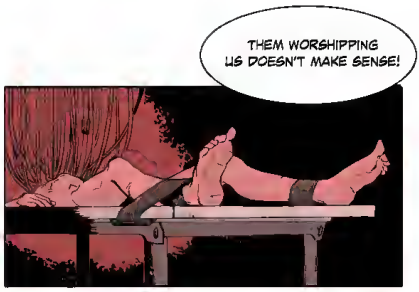


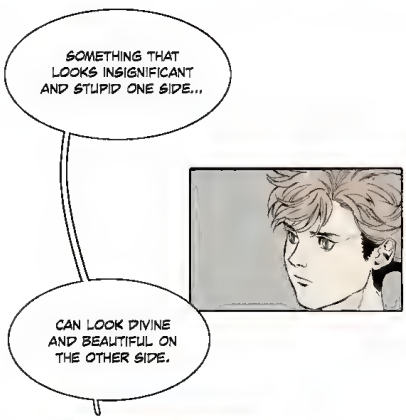
SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER TO NOT KNOW SOMETHING.

...MACHIA NEVER MENTIONED IT EITHER.

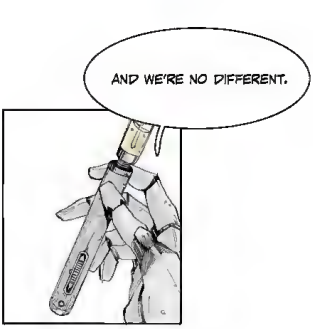
NO ONE IN THE PALACE TALKED ABOUT IT.




THEM WORSHIPPING US DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!


SOMETHING THAT LOOKS INSIGNIFICANT AND STUPID ONE SIDE...
CAN LOOK DIVINE AND BEAUTIFUL ON THE OTHER SIDE.

HUMANS HAVE MULTIPLE SIDES TO THEM AFTER ALL.


AND WE'RE NO DIFFERENT.

WELL, ANYWAY...

...IF YOU ASK TO BE TAKEN INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY-

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY? IS THAT STILL POSSIBLE?

TECHNICALLY, YES.

BUT NOT WITH THE POLICE.

THEY DON'T REALLY CONSIDER THE PEOPLE HERE TO BE WORTH PROTECTING...

AND AS YOU KNOW, THEY'RE CONTROLLED BY MACHIA, SO HE'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP TRACK OF YOU.

THAT SOUNDS DANGEROUS. I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO KNOW ABOUT US.

WE CAN DO IT OURSELVES.

THAT'S TOO RISKY.

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU'LL KEEP THAT UP?

FOREVER? UNTIL THE BOY GROWS OLD AND DIES?

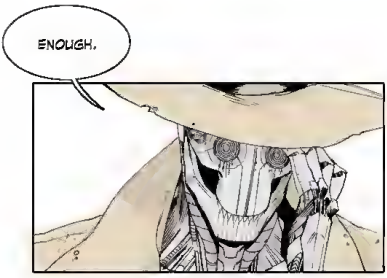
I DON'T NEED PROTECTION.
I'M SICK OF STAYING HIDDEN LIKE THIS!

YURA, I MIGHT JUST THROW YOU OUTSIDE IF YOU SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME.

CLENCH
GO AHEAD THEN.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO RESCUE SIRA BY SITTING STILL LIKE THIS. AND...
...HOW COME YOU'RE ALWAYS TELLING ME WHAT THE RULES ARE OR THREATENING ME!

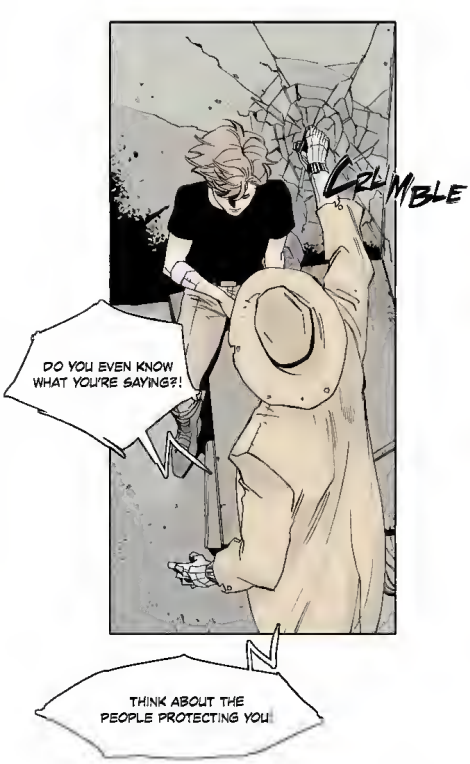
HOW THE HELL IS THIS EVEN KEEPING ME SAFE?!


ENOUGH.

YOU SAID EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS I'M A HUMAN ANYWAY!
JUST LET THEM FIND ME.
SIGH...

AT LEAST THEN EVEN IF THEY TEAR MY BODY APART, AT LEAST I WON'T STAY MY USELESS SELF!

CRACK


CRUMBLE
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!
THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE PROTECTING YOU

CLENCH
YOU'RE THE ONES THAT DECIDED TO PROTECT ME. WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT YOU AT ALL?!

YOU ALWAYS PRESSURE ME, SAYING YOU'RE HELPING, BUT NEVER THINK ABOUT HOW I FEEL, OR WHAT MY SITUATION IS!!

WHY ARE YOU SO SELFISH?!
GRAB

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN DANGER!
EVERYONE AND EVERY PLACE YOU'VE BEEN NEAR IS IN DANGER!
ARE YOU COMFORTABLE WITH PUTTING ALL THOSE PEOPLE IN DANGER?!

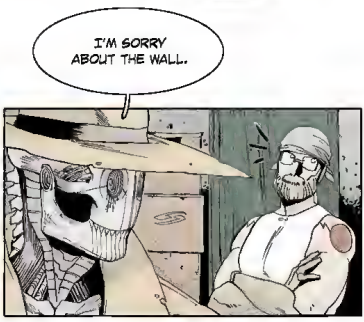
I NEVER ASKED FOR THAT.

I...
...JUST WANT TO RESCUE SIRA...

SO WE CAN LIVE HAPPILY WITHOUT HIDING.

THEN BEING SEEN IS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS.
THAT'S WHY I WANT A STRONGER BODY.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO RESCUE SIRA, IF ALL I'M DOING IS HIDING?!

...LET'S STOP THIS.
THERE'S NO POINT IN ARGUING ABOUT THIS NOW.


I'M SORRY ABOUT THE WALL.

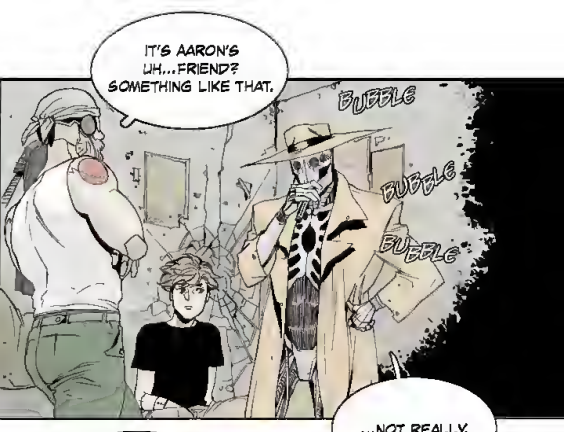
AH, IT'S FINE. IT WAS ALREADY FALLING APART, SO I'LL JUST TAKE THIS CHANCE TO REMODEL.

YURA.
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.
IT'S GOING TO GET TOUGHER TO KNOW WHO YOU CAN AND CAN'T TRUST. AND...
KIERGORE WILL BE DOING THE PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.

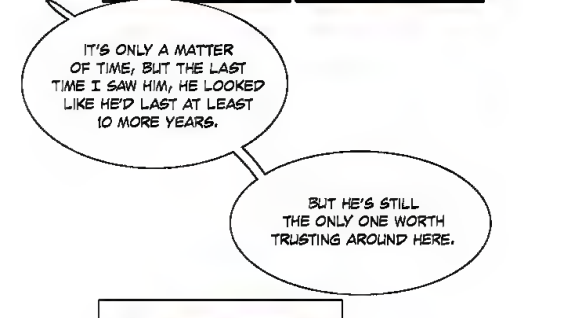
!!

...SHIT.
HE LOOKS NERVOUS...
FWIP

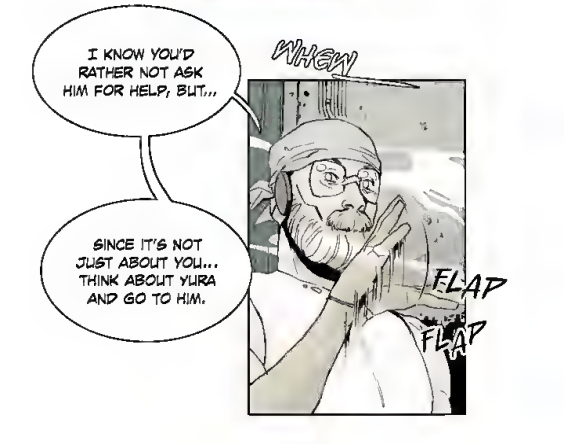
...WHO'S THAT? DIDN'T YOU SAY THE POLICE WON'T DO IT?
AH,


IT'S AARON'S UH...FRIEND? SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
...NOT REALLY.

THEN...MAYBE SOMETHING LIKE A DIVORCED COUPLE?
HE'S STILL ALIVE?


IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, BUT THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM, HE LOOKED LIKE HE'D LAST AT LEAST 10 MORE YEARS.
BUT HE'S STILL THE ONLY ONE WORTH TRUSTING AROUND HERE.

BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE


I KNOW YOU'D RATHER NOT ASK HIM FOR HELP, BUT...
SINCE IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT YOU... THINK ABOUT YURA AND GO TO HIM.
WHEW
FLAP
FLAP

TO BE CONTINUED..

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